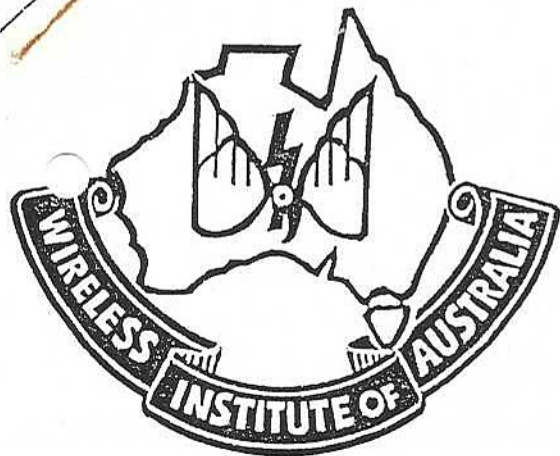
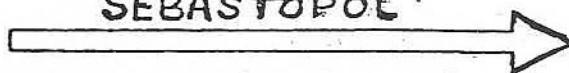




Oct 1989

B.A.R.G. NEWS

ALL ROADS LEAD TO
THE *ANNUAL*
B.A.R.G. HAMVENTION
Oct. 29, 1989.
SEBASTOPOL



© Monthly Newsletter of the
Ballarat Amateur Radio Group

89/10 2

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING HELD 29th SEPTEMBER 1989.

MEETING OPENED by President Gordon KCG at 7.45 pm with 19 members in attendance.

APOLOGIES. VK3 PUA, AAP, XEX, PSD, KQQ, KIT, CUH, NIZ, VEJ.

MINUTES of previous meeting as circulated in Newsletter confirmed. WN/CFH.

CORRESPONDENCE OUT 25 Call Books ordered from WIA.

TREASURERS REPORT General a/c \$1001.00. VS&L. \$2196.82.
Accounts for \$82.40 passed for payment. KGL/CAZ.

QSL MANAGER Jeff PAP received 520 cards in and dispatched 600 out.

EDUCATION Officer Ian AXH has received enquiries re another course for the NAOCP and would like to hear from any interested parties.

PUBLICITY Officer Clarrie has headed off to a warmer climate so Kevin WN will continue to look after the Hamvention publicity and I will attend to any general publicity items which come to hand.

HAMVENTION. Kevin WN reported that everything was in hand, the Saturday night get together will be at the Red Lion Hotel, raffle books were distributed and all that is needed now is plenty of help on the 29th of October.

NET. Co-ordinator John CFH rep^{rt}ed that the Net is quite active and thanked the members for giving support.

NEWSLETTER. ITEMS FOR PUBLICATION URGENTLY NEEDED.

WICEN President Gordon KGC will be attending the regional meeting to be held in Ballarat on 7th October.

GENERAL BUSINESS. The Ballarat Air League requested assistance in teaching the cadets CW. John cfh and Reg CAZ are now conducting classes for them on Tuesday nights.

MEETING CLOSED at 8.30pm and after a short coffee break Merv CAW assisted by Kevin WN gave an interesting talk on 2mtr Yagi antennas.

#####

73s Jim CFB.

NEXT BARG MEETING Friday 27th October at Education Centre. 7.30pm.

HAMVENTION Sunday 29th October. 9,00 am at Sebastopol Football Club.

COMMITTEE MEETING Monday 18th November at President Gordons QTH.

#####

THE YEAR MARCHES ON, OUR ANNUAL CONVENTION TIME HAS ARRIVED AGAIN, SO THE CLUB IS LOOKING FOR PARTICIPATION OF ALL MEMBERS TO HELP THE COMMITTEE ON BOTH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. THERE ARE MANY TASKS TO BE DONE, SOME REQUIRE LITTLE TIME, AND OTHERS THAT WILL TAKE MORE TIME. LET US FULLY SUPPORT CHAIRMAN KEVIN WITH ALL THE SUPPORT WE CAN GIVE BY ATTENDING THE CLUB MEETING ON OCTOBER 27, AND VOLUNTEER FOR THE VARIOUS TASKS. THE FUNCTION SHOULD BE A GREAT SUCCESS AS KEVIN HAS HAD RECORD REQUESTS FROM TRADERS.

THE CLUB 2m SCRAMBLE CONTINUES TO PROVIDE ENJOYMENT FOR THOSE ENTERING. IT IS A FUN PROJECT AND MORE STATIONS WILL MAKE IT MORE FUN. REMEMBER 1945 HR. CHECK-IN ON 3BBA AND THE EVENT STARTS AT 1950 HR.

NORMALLY, THE SCRAMBLE TAKES PLACE ONCE A MONTH ON THE SUNDAY AFTER THE CLUB MEETING, FOR THIS MONTH ONLY, IT WILL BE A WEEK LATER BECAUSE OF THE HAMVENTION, SO MAKE A NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW.

A NOTE ON EXAMINATIONS, AS YOU WILL BE AWARE THAT THE D.O.T.C? IS TO CEASE CONDUCTING EXAMINATIONS FOR AMATEURS, PROBABLY AFTER THE FEB? '90 SERIES. THE CLUB HAS TAKEN ACTION TO BECOME AN EXAMINATION BODY SO THAT EXAMS WILL STILL BE CARRIED OUT IN OUR AREA OF WESTERN VICTORIA. IAN VK3AXH IS LOOKING AFTER DEVELOPMENTS IN THIS AREA. FOR THOSE CANDIDATES FOR EXAMS IN THEORY & REGULATIONS, TRIAL EXAM PAPERS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE WIA (VICTORIAN DIVISION) FOR THE COST OF \$12-00. REMEMBER TO STATE WHETHER YOU WANT NOVICE OR ACP PAPERS.

THERE IS ONE OTHER ITEM I WOULD LIKE TO MENTION THIS MONTH, AND THAT IS FOX-HUNTING. I HAVE FOUND THIS TO BE A LOT OF FUN, SO I HOPE YOU WILL DUST OFF YOUR GEAR AND PREPARE FOR THE COMING SEASON. NOW THAT THE DAYS ARE GETTING LONGER, I WOULD LIKE TO START (DEPENDING ON THE WEATHER), MID TO LATE NOVEMBER. I HOPE TO DISCUSS SUITABLE TIMES AT THE NEXT MEETING.

73

GORDON VK3GC

HELP WANTED.

AS OUR CONVENTION ON SUNDAY WILL BE THE BIGGEST EVER WOULD CLUB MEMBERS PLEASE ATTEND THE CLUB MEETING ON FRIDAY NIGHT WHEN VARIOUS TASKS WILL BE ALLOCATED.

BY ATTENDING THE MEETING YOU MAY WIN A NEW A.R.R.L. HANDBOOK.

PLEASE BRING ALL RAFFLE BOOKS ALL SOLD - I HOPE.

KEVIN VK 3WN

VOLUNTEER LADIES REQUIRED ON SUNDAY

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Light in Dark Places.

Those of us who "wuz brung up on the European valve code" will remember how easy it was to decode EBC33 or ECH81 and how difficult it became when transistors seemed to be always prefixed by 2N and followed by a "meaningless number". Well the Europeans did introduce a degree of sanity into their transistor code, lacking in the American scheme.

Here is the secret:

The first letter indicates the material from which the device is made:

- A - Germanium
- B - Silicon
- C - Gallium Arsenide
- D - Indium Antimonide
- R - Cadmium Sulphide

The second letter indicates the use:

- A - Detector diode
 - Mixer diode
 - Switching diode
- B - Variable capacitance diode
- C - Low level audio type
- D - High power audio type
- E - Tunnel diode
- F - Low level RF type
- G - Anything not on list e.g. lambda diode
- L - High power RF type
- N - Photo coupler device
- P - Photo diode, transistor
 - Radiation detector
 - Photo cell
- Q - Light emitting diode
- R - Low power thyristor
- S - Low power switching thyristor
- T - High power thyristor
- U - High power switching transistor
- X - Varactor diode, step recovery diode
- Y - Rectifier diode, Booster diode, step recovery diode
- Z - Reference diode, zener diode, transient suppressor diode

EXTRA's:

- 1 - Zener/reference diodes may carry another few letters/numbers, i.e. 6V3 indicates 6.3 volts.
- 2 - Some diodes, usually stud mounted or SHF types, may have a letter R following the ident. This indicates that the polarity of the device is the "reverse" or opposite of the normal configuration.
- 3 - Zener diodes are not extremely accurate being subject to quite wide tolerances of as much as $\pm 15\%$. In this case the letter preceding the voltage rating gives it's tolerance.
A= $\pm 1\%$, B= $\pm 2\%$, C=5%, D= $\pm 10\%$, E= $\pm 15\%$.
- 4 - If the device is intended for industrial applications, the "in house" ident will consist of a letter and two figures as in the BCY70 etc. Applies to zeners and transistors alike.
Example: BZY-88 C4V7. This indicates a silicon voltage regulator diode for industrial applications with a stabilizing voltage of 4.7 volts, with a tolerance of $\pm 5\%$.
- 5 - If the device is preceded by O, that is a hangover from the old "valve code" indicating that the heater voltage is zero. Likewise the A or C indicates a diode (A) or a triode (C) transistor. Hence OA70 or OC 26, but these are fast disappearing.

Regards Reg - VK3CAZ.

When the 6.9 Richter scale earthquake hit Northern California on October 18, communications were cut or overloaded.

The news media rang the WIA Victorian Division eager to find any radio amateur in contact with the disaster area.

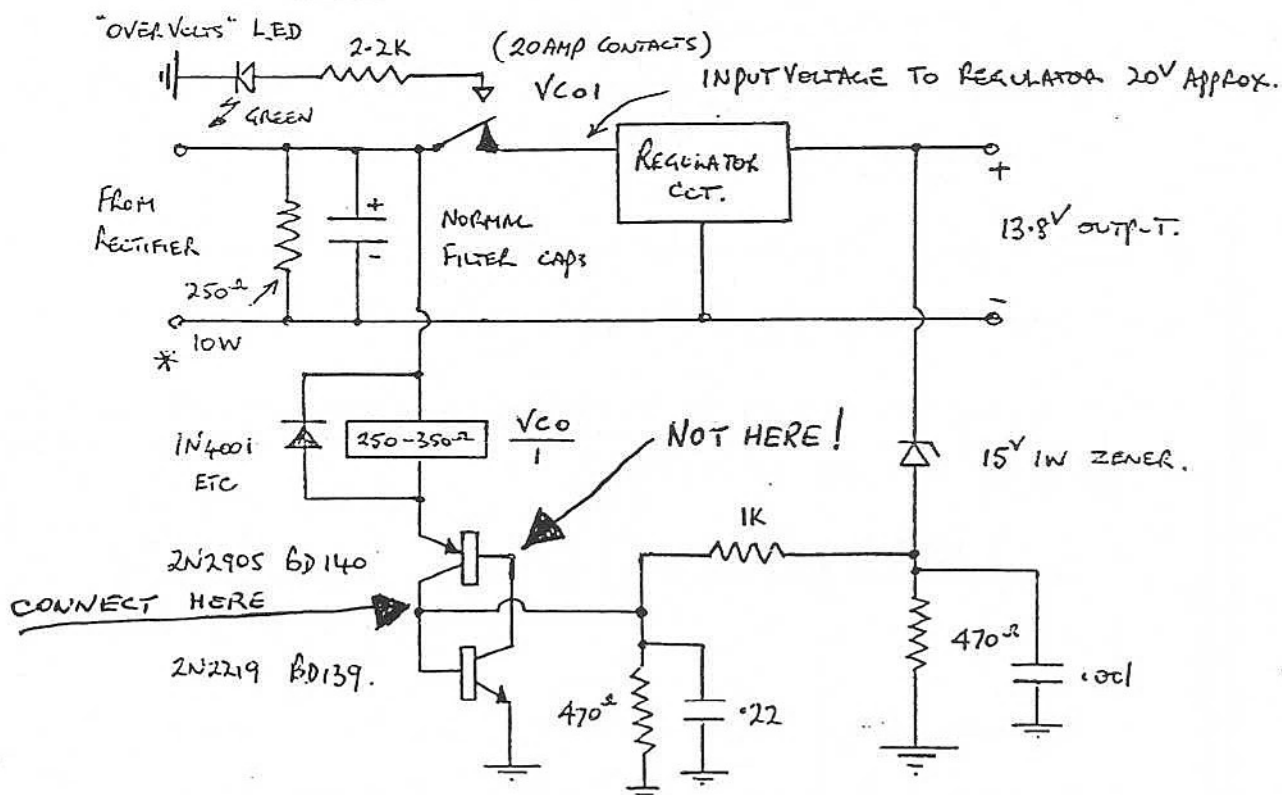
Journalists were put on to those who had set up a network ready to handle emergency, health and welfare traffic.

The Age newspaper ran a good story and photograph, and the electronic media also made mention of amateur radio's role.

Even Derryn Hinch on his Hinch at Seven program gave our hobby lots of praise.

CHEAP INSURANCE ??

ERRATA



THE CIRCUIT SHOWN HERE FOR OVER VOLTAGE PROTECTION IS CORRECT!

EDITOR.

Radio amateurs in more than 60 countries including Australia are permitted to use the three HF bands of 30, 17, and 12 metres.

These were gained by the Amateur Radio Service at the World Administrative Radio Conference in 1979.

But it has taken the past decade to move other services from the bands so they could be turned over to us.

Some good DX is being worked on them helped by the sunspot cycle peak providing favorable propagation conditions.

To check openings toward Europe listen for a beacon on 24.915MHZ with the callsign IK6BAK.

QSL BUREAU UPDATE

Some 650 radio amateurs and SWLs have registered to receive their cards via the WIA Victorian Division's Inwards QSL Bureau Service.

All registrations received have been acknowledged in writing through the post,

The 16 distribution points will receive another batch of cards at the end of November.

From then on batches will be sent to them at 90 days intervals.

An information sheet explaining how the Bureau works is available on request from the WIA Vic Division.

Introduction

The WIA 2m Fox Hunts start at 8:15pm on the second Friday of each month. The usual meeting place for prospective "hounds" is the car park of the Doncaster Swimming Centre. These fox hunts have been run continuously for the last 20-30 years, and have proved a great source of enjoyment to the many amateurs who have taken part. If you would like to take part in these fox hunts, or perhaps run a hunt for your own club members, the tips below might help.

First let's look at a typical fox hunting team and its equipment. Teams can consist of as few as two people, but three or four is preferable. A typical team consists of a driver, a beam turner to operate the Direction Finding equipment, a navigator (preferably someone who can read a Melways) and a runner. In three person teams, the navigator doubles as a runner at the appropriate time.

The equipment used can be as simple, or as complicated, as you like. Fox hunting is one of those areas of Amateur Radio in which a large proportion of those taking part are continually experimenting with new techniques and equipment. It also has the advantage that the type of gear required is still relatively cheap. Assuming you want to start with something simple (but nonetheless still quite effective in the right hands), you will need:

- A radio to listen to the frequency of interest. (Usually 144.250MHz). An IC-202 or a converter and HF receiver are typical.
- An antenna that can be rotated from inside your vehicle. Most teams use a three element beam attached to a roof rack via a piece of pipe and U-bolts.
- An attenuator is handy, but not absolutely necessary.
- A Melways street directory.

A RECIPE FOR SUCCESSFUL FOX HUNTING

This section deals with techniques which have been found to be effective in the Victorian Division's monthly fox hunts. Many of the techniques used should be applicable to other forms of fox hunting.

- In our fox hunts, the fox drives off and is given a maximum head start of ten minutes. Usually he drives away for five minutes or so and then "calls in" the hounds on the fox and liaison frequencies. (Our liaison frequency is 146.675 FM.)
- As the fox drives off, he will be transmitting, and the beam turner must "follow him out". While he is close, the incoming signal from the fox is sufficiently strong to get a clear idea of which way he is headed. If you wait until the call in to start DFing, the fox signal may be buried amongst reflections or difficult to hear. By mentally integrating directions from the beam, as he drives away, you avoid these problems.

- When called in, drive directly towards the fox. The shortest distance between two points is a straight line - only losers drive to one side to take bearings! At this stage, stay on the major roads, and avoid high reflection areas such as the city.
- If you get confused, or lose the signal, try heading for the nearest high ground. If all else fails, try the 2m liaison frequency. Assistance is always available from the controller or from other hounds.
- You know that you're getting close when:
 - . the direction of the signal "swings" sharply as you go past. Circumnavigate the fox on at least two sides before dropping a runner. (The optimum search pattern is a straight line towards the fox, with a spiral in towards the final location.)
 - . the rate of increase of the signal strength increases. (Disregard actual signal strength until you're more familiar with your gear, the type of foxes being used etc.)
- Get reasonably close by car and then drop a runner. A person on foot can cover the last fifty metres to a well hidden fox much faster than you can in the car.
- If you meet an obstruction (e.g. a river, a freeway or a railway line)
 - . if indications are that it is close, drop a runner and immediately head the vehicle for the other side.
 - . The runner should take a direction from the beam in the car and head off in that direction. On arriving at the (say) river, he should check his side thoroughly. Even if it's not on his side of the river, he should move along the bank to check for bridges etc.
 - . Remember - winding rivers (such as the Yarra) have many deep "peninsulas" that may make the signal appear to come from the other side of the river (i.e. you're on one peninsula and the fox is on the next). Only by moving along the bank in the appropriate direction can you be sure it's not on your side.
- Even if you find the fox, the hunt may not be over yet. Move quietly away from the immediate area of the fox and park out of sight, if possible. If you've dropped one or more runners, you can use this time to retrieve them.
 - . In the old days, teams would regularly lose or "misplace" the occasional runner. If you don't have two way communication with your runners (i.e. handhelds), make it a practice to:
 - * give him a chance to get in by himself if you think it's likely
 - * and/or return to where you dropped him off. If you lose a runner, this is the only place you're both sure of!

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PEPEATERS: VK3RBA - 146.750 Voice. Mt. Buninyong. (Ch.3)
 VK3RBS - 146.900 Voice. Smeaton Hill. (Ch.6)
 VK3RPC - 147.575 Packet. Mt. Buninyong.

CLUB NET : On 3.5610 Mhz. SSB +/- QRM.
 Every Thursday at 8 PM.

MEETINGS : Held every last Friday of
 month at 7.30 PM. in the
 Ballarat Community Education Centre.
 Hopetoun St.
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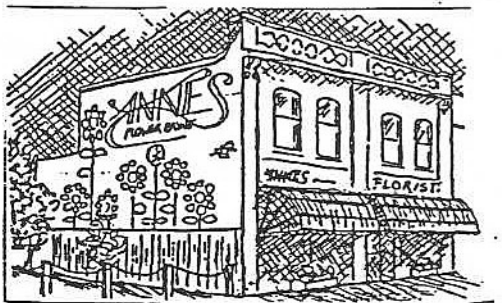
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